

Washington Merry-Go-Round

Dirksen Pushes Otepka for Job On Revitalized Security Agency

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Washington — Some significant developments have been taking place backstage regarding Otto Otepka, the onetime State Department official rejected by both Democratic and Republican secretaries of state for leaking security classified papers to Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn).

The first recent development took place inside the Senate Judiciary Committee last week. Sen. Everett Dirksen (R-Ill) tried to push confirmation of Otepka to the \$36,000 job on the Subversive Activities Control Board.

President Nixon had appointed him to this post, at Dirksen's urging. It was quite a promotion from his old \$14,000 State Department job.

When Dirksen made this move at a closed-door session, Senators Ted Kennedy (D-Mass) and Joe Tydings (D-Md) asked to see a transcript of the Otepka hearings. They knew that a subcommittee very friendly to Otepka, including Dodd, had passed on his qualifications. And they suspected he had been asked no penetrating questions about his Nazi friends.

Dirksen tried to brush Kennedy and Tydings aside, but the chairman, Sen. Jim Eastland (D-Miss) ruled that the senators had a right to read galley proofs of the hearing. So a vote was delayed. It comes to a hearing this week.

The second development was revelation of a plan to establish a new security network, with Otepka at the top.

The third development was evidence that Otepka has been extremely close to the neo-Nazi movement in the United States.

Thus, as a member of the Subversive Activities Control Board, charged with ruling on subversive organizations, Otepka would be called upon to pass upon the activities of his closest friends,

Links to Otepka

It has been revealed that the Liberty Lobby, a front

for the neo-Nazi movement, was one of the most indefatigable champions of Otepka.

At first, an effort was made to conceal the links between the Liberty Lobby and the neo-Nazis. Their private link was Willis Carto, founder of both.

Now, however, the Liberty Lobby is publicly pushing the sale of paperback editions of "Imperium," the new "Mein Kampf" of Nazism in the United States.

The link between Otepka and the Liberty Lobby has never been concealed. Liberty Lobby produced and distributed a film, "The Otepka Case." Liberty Lobby bulletins have consistently defended Otepka, consistently hammered his critics.

However, the plan to set up a new security organization is the most significant development of all.

The Subversive Activities Control Board, to which Otepka is being appointed, has been inactive for years. It hasn't heard a single case of subversion. However, right-wing senators plan to revitalize it under Otepka's leadership.

To this end, they already have made Otepka's former assistant, John Norpel, Jr., research director of the Senate Internal Security Committee.

New Legislation

Furthermore, they plan to pass a new Internal Security Act, S. 12, giving Otepka new powers to conduct witch hunts.

Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC), an author of S. 12, describes it as follows:

"The proposed Internal Security Act of 1969, now pending in the Senate, would set up a central security agency for all agencies of government, under control of the Subversive Activities Control Board."

"If this legislation passes," says Thurmond, "Mr. Otepka will once again deal with security evaluation, not only for the State Department, but for all the Government."

These are some of the vital issues to be discussed behind the closed doors of the Senate Judiciary Committee. The public will not be present. Later, presumably, the issues also will be discussed on the Senate floor. (© 1969)